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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

DAILY 49ER

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STEFEN AGREGADO | DAILY 49ER

Seth Newmeyer [right], a student from UCLA, is being charged for 2 misdemeanors in lieu of the protest that occured at the Chanellor's Office Nov. 16, 2011.

BOT meeting protester to face charges in court

Seth Newmeyer's charges include failure to disperse, $32,000 of vandalism.

BY KRISTINE MCGOWAN
Assistant News Editor

University of California, Los Angeles student Seth Newmeyer is facing misdemeanor charges as a result of clashes between police officers and protesters at the Nov. 16 Cal State University Board of Trustees meeting.

The Long Beach City Prosecutor filed two misdemeanor charges against Newmeyer in early February that include failure to disperse and a $32,000 vandalism charge — for a glass door broken at the meeting.

Four students were arrested and an officer was injured by the broken glass as students protested against a 9 percent tuition increase.

Newmeyer's trial begins on March 6, but he said he cannot afford a lawyer to represent him in court.

"I … will not accept money that could be going to protest-related actions to fund one," Newmeyer said in a released document. "This is a case that should never see court."

He said he is "going the route of public defenders," hoping to gain the assistance of either the American Civil Liberties Union or National Lawyers' Guild.

The $32,000 "reflects the cost of replacing the glass, hardware and door assembly," CSU spokesman Erik Fallis said via email.

Fallis also said the CSU is not pursuing the case.

"We're not suing anyone for the door," he said. "The CSU cannot tell the prosecutor to move forward."

Newmeyer has released a two-page document detailing his situation and calling on others to protest the charges set against him by contacting city officials. He has also created an online petition.

He said he was about five or ten feet away from the door at the time that it broke.

Although video evidence of the protest shows that Newmeyer is away

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CSULB proposes changes to admissions process

Changes include major-specific criteria, accepting more non-locals.

BY ELISABETH MANVILLE
Staff Writer

Cal State Long Beach proposed referring more local students to Long Beach City College in an effort to accept more non-local students, in the first of three public hearings on changes to CSULB admission guidelines on Friday.

The hearing was held at the offices for Coast Community Colleges in Costa Mesa, next to the district's Orange Coast College campus. Attendees were primarily representatives of CSULB, Coast Community Colleges (including Orange Coast College, Golden West College and Coastline Community College) and Cerritos College.

David Dowell, vice provost for planning and budget and director of strategic planning at CSULB, discussed the proposal.

Dowell said that of the local students admitted to CSULB under the Long Beach Promise, the bottom 10 percent of those students have a 24 percent college graduation rate. He proposed referring those students to Long Beach City College, allowing for a competitive admissions

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Nini Horn | 1929-2012

CSULB philanthropist, arts enthusiast dies at age 80

The wife of the late CSULB President Steve Horn was very involved in the community.

BY ANTHONY GARZA
Contributing Writer

Nini Horn

Nini Horn, avid arts enthusiast and wife of the late Congressman Steve Horn, died on Tuesday, at the age of 80.

Horn died at the Long Beach Memorial Medical Center after a 16-year battle with breast cancer, according to her son, Steve Horn Jr.

A celebration of her life will be held at a later date.

"It is, indeed, a great loss," Cal State Long Beach President F. King Alexander said.

Nini Horn grew up in Lodi, Calif., and graduated from Stanford University with distinction in history and humanities in 1953, and received a certificate from the Program in Business Administration of Radcliffe College/ Harvard Business School in 1954.

She was a great supporter of the arts and played a major role at CSULB.

"She played piano and enjoyed the arts very much," Horn Jr. said. "She

HORN | Page 3

State affirmative action law challenged in court

CSU officials say the 23-campus system won't be affected.

BY RON BAR-ZION
Staff Writer

The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals is looking into whether they should end California's ban on affirmative action.

California's Proposition 209 put an end to affirmative action in California universities when it was passed in 1996.

However, that law is now being challenged, which could make affirmative action legal in the state of California if the law is overturned.

Erik Fallis, Cal State University spokesman, argues that regardless of the decision made by the court, CSU students may not see much of a change.

"With regard to both of these laws, from the CSU perspective on both of these, the impact on us is relatively minor," Fallis said.

Fallis mentioned that because of state law, California universities do not have any admission policies that select students based on race, but he believes that the campuses currently reflect the demographics of the community as a whole.

The CSU's were designed to serve the top-third of high school graduates and transfer students.

"We've been able to maintain a student population that's the most diverse in the nation and is really reflective of where California is," Fallis said.

Jason Whitehead, a political science professor and director of the legal studies program at Cal State Long Beach, said that the courts sometimes see a certain amount of diversity as appropriate because of the nature of education.

The court said the interest of diversity is a compelling state interest.

"We learn better in an environment where we can get a robust exchange of ideas and different people from different backgrounds," Whitehead said.

Although Whitehead said that there are some benefits to encouraging

AFFIRMATIVE | Page 2

49ers guard Balthazar hospitalized

The LBSU freshman collapsed during a game on Friday.

BY DAILY 49ER SPORTS STAFF

The Long Beach State women's basketball team had a scare over the weekend that was much more important than the losses it suffered to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and UC Santa Barbara.

Freshman guard Bianka Balthazar was rushed to Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center hospital on Thursday after she collapsed while being helped to the LBSU bench in

BALTHAZAR | Page 2

Balthazar

Continued from Page 1

a contest against Cal Poly.

With the 'Niners trailing 68-41, Balthazar had told officials that she felt like she was going to pass out with five minutes and 11 seconds left in the contest.

LBSU head coach Jody Wynn decided to forfeit the game, instead of play out the last five-plus minutes.

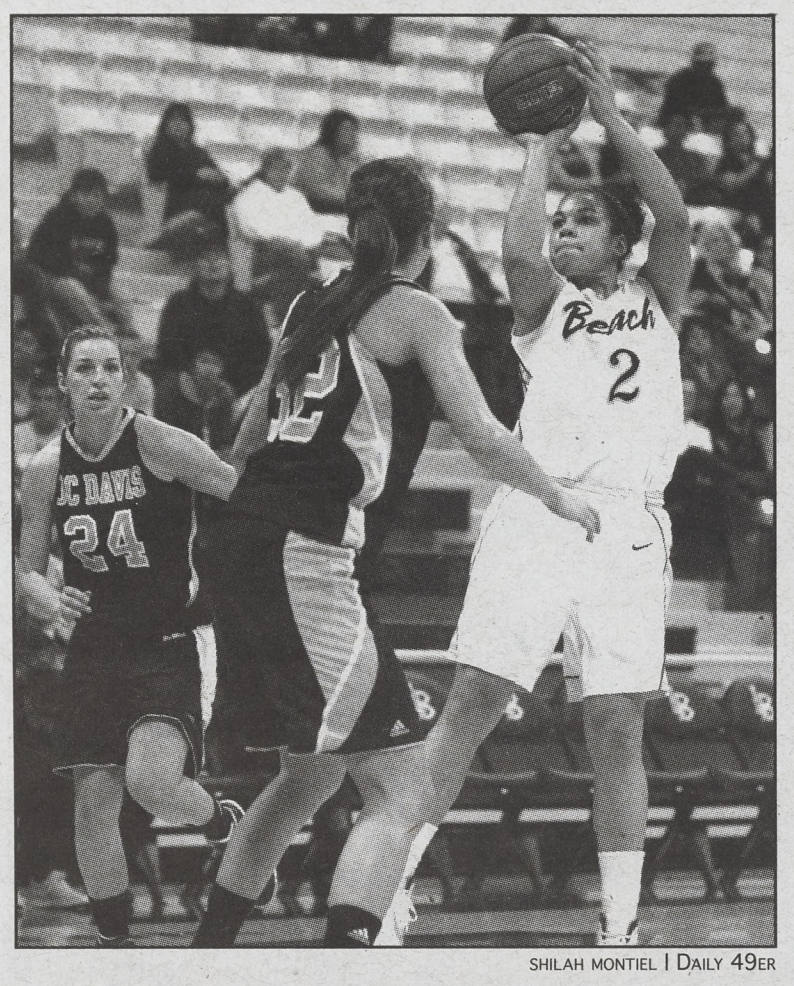
In an interview with SanLuisObispo.com, Mustangs star Kristina Santiago said she felt for the Balthazar and the 49ers as a team.

"It's super scary," she said. Just knowing what she's going through, it's hard when the gym gets silent. Everyone's staring at you. You're trying not to show your symptoms, but obviously, this is a serious matter. And I feel for her."

She added: "Seeing them all torn up, you never want to see that. Even though they're on the other team, we're all here playing the same sport, playing for the same goal. We care for them a lot."

According to SanLuisObispo.com, Hospital spokesman Ron Yukelson said Balthazar was in good condition while being treated in the emergency room, but doctors were still unsure as to what caused the freshman to pass out.

Balthazar has been a solid contributor to the LBSU lineup this season. The freshman has played in 22 games, averaging 5.9 points and 3 rebounds in 20.9 minutes per contest.



SHILAH MONTIEL | DAILY 49ER

Long Beach State freshman Bianka Balthazar, right, was taken to the hospital after collapsing in the 49ers 68-41 loss to Cal Poly.

Rally to be held for educational rights

March 1 is the National Day of Action for Education.

By Jason Clark
Staff Writer

Students for Quality Education (SQE) is holding a rally on Thursday at Cal State Long Beach in protest of increasing tuition prices and budget cuts.

SQE is a student-run organization that fights for educational rights across the Cal State University system. Representatives spent last week visiting classes to raise awareness of the upcoming rally.

"SQE is talking to students about March 1 and March 5," representative Erika Flores said. "March 1 is the National Day of Action for Education. March 5, or March for March, is a centralized action at the State Capitol in Sacramento."

The rally on campus this Thursday is simply a prelude to a much bigger protest that will be taking place in Sacramento next week. SQE chapters representing CSUs, UCs and community colleges will be making the trip up north to fight against California higher education.

In the past year, student fees have been increased twice, adding almost $700 to students' annual tuition. A 12 percent increase in July and 9 percent increase in November were approved to help set off $650 million in budget cuts that were passed over the summer.

"The cutting of programs, services, and deteriorating work conditions for faculty and staff leaves students paying more for less and we've had enough," Flores said.

Thursday's rally will take place in the Upper Quad of campus and will host a day's worth of activities that include teach-ins, art stations, and even a flash mob by PAC Modern. The goal is to get students involved in SQE's fight against "the privatization of California public schools."

"We will not stand idly by while our public education becomes privatized," Flores said. "Education is a right."

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BOT

Continued from Page 1

from the door as it breaks, it also shows him violently shaking the doors against police officers seconds before it shatters.

"We didn't want to back up and be locked out," Newmeyer said.

A baton is also wedged in the doors' handlebars in the video, placed there by officers according to Donnie Bessom, a Students for Quality Education organizer who was at the protest.

After protesters were shut out of the BOT meeting and the door had shattered, Newmeyer said he walked away with other protesters — officers circling them the entire time — and was arrested an hour later on four charges: assault and battery on an officer with a deadly weapon (the door), vandalism and obstruction of justice.

A week later the District Attorney dropped the charges due to video evidence, Newmeyer said.

Ashley Wardle, a San Diego State University student, was also arrested and given two years of extracurricular suspension, Newmeyer said. Since then, her charges have been significantly reduced.

But Newmeyer said he is afraid he will have to face similar, if not worse, repercussions.

"My main concern is that … if this goes to trial, then the [UCLA Student Conduct Committee] will hear and maybe throw me out of school," he said.

Newmeyer's petition can be found at **change.org.**

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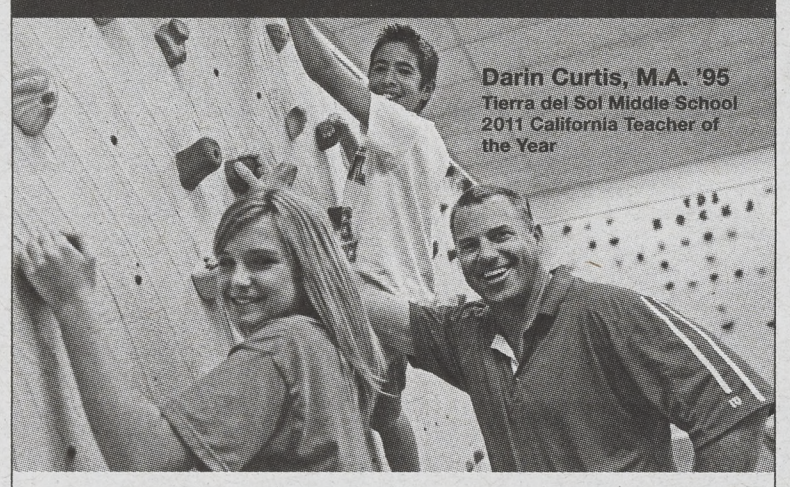

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Admissions

Continued from Page 1

process at CSULB in which more non-local students with a higher chance of completing a degree are admitted.

"We're in the business of distributing a scarce resource," Dowell said.

An additional point Dowell emphasized was adding major-specific criteria. Among community college students, this could require anywhere from two to eight required courses. For some students, this could just mean doing well in pre-existing general education courses related to their major.

Dowell also spoke of a change in defining transfer students as local based by their high school, not their community college.

A third potential change to CSULB admissions is the Beach Pathways program, which would admit a certain number of students based on holistic review. These students, although they may not have been considered due to GPA and test scores, would be considered on other indicators of likely success.

Although the proposed changes are designed for the 2013-14 school year, Dowell assured that the transition would be eased in and it would probably be three years before they fully take effect.

Bob Hughlett, secretary of the Board of Trustees at Cerritos College, voiced his concerns that in the last four years, the number of students transferring to CSULB from Cerritos College has dropped by 60 percent.

"Our pipeline has been severely and abruptly changed," Hughlett said.

Dowell explained that a similar drop in admissions occurred among all transfer students due to cutbacks.

"The state of California doesn't have the kind of money it used to have," said Jim Moreno, president of the Coast Community College District. "We have a lot to get done with fewer dollars, so let's try to do the best we can."

The second public hearing will be on Wednesday at 3 p.m. at the CSULB Barrett Athletic Administration Center (formerly the Pyramid Annex Conference Center). A third meeting will be held at the Long Beach City College Liberal Arts Campus on March 7 at 2 p.m.

Affirmative

Continued from Page 1

diversity on college campuses, he also said it is unconstitutional to look at race as a single factor when determining students' enrollment.

"Race can't be used as the only factor in making a decision," Whitehead said.

Whitehead explained further that if race is looked at as a small part of many other factors — such as economic, cultural, and geographic diversity — then that could be taken into account when determining a student's eligibility for enrollment.

"There's a high percentage of residential segregation based on race, so that will in some ways increase minority populations just focusing on a particular neighborhood," Whitehead said. "So there are certain ways to take race into account, without explicitly taking it into account."

Chitra Wiltshire, a freshman fashion merchandising major, does not believe college admissions should be based on race.

"I believe that affirmative action in universities should be banned because it should be based on how smart you are or the extra-curricular [activities] that you have," Wiltshire said.

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Employers consider party photos as 'friendly'

Students are advised to Google themselves, watch their online reputation.

By Karina Cornejo
Contributing Writer

Stefan Agregado | Daily 49er

Facebook party photos show that an applicant is extroverted.

Those on the job hunt may not have to worry about untagging themselves from Friday night's party photos anymore.

According to a study conducted by Northern Illinois University (NIU), party photos are not as bad as they may seem. In fact, employers said checking an applicant's Facebook profile is a more accurate representation of job performance than self-assessments conducted by many companies.

"Raters generally gave favorable evaluations to students who traveled, had more friends and showed a wide range of hobbies and interests," said Don Kluemper, lead researcher at NIU. "Partying photos didn't necessarily count against a student; on the contrary, raters perceived the student as extroverted and friendly."

To land a job, applicants must focus on a good online reputation in addition to résumés and interviews, according to Alaine Weiss, a Career Development Center counselor and MBA career adviser.

"It's part of what it takes to establish and promote a personal brand," she said.

Weiss advised students to Google their own name regularly to be aware of what potential employers can find.

"Hanging out with friends, having fun, being adventurous, even holding an adult beverage, would be seen as normal to attractive behavior in a candidate," Weiss said. "[But] photos or posts about a candidate engaging in any activity that illustrates questionable judgment would most likely be detrimental to a candidate's chances of being hired."

Weiss said some applicants need to think twice about online content.

"Some would say that if you wouldn't want your grandmother to see it, then it probably shouldn't be seen by anyone considering you for a responsible, adult role in their organization," she said.

Senior philosophy major Khembottra Oum said he disagrees with the study.

"I think you can't really tell how a person is through their Facebook," Oum said.

He said he still tries to have a reputable image, just in case.

"I always have second thoughts when I post stuff on Facebook because you never know who is going to look at it," he said.

Sophomore art major Lauren Belyan said employers will judge photos differently — some might not mind a little partying and others might be totally against it.

A workshop on managing social media reputation, "Social Media and Your Job Search: Facebook, Twitter, etc." is scheduled for March 21 from 1 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Career Development Center in Brotman Hall, Room 250.

HORN

Continued from Page 1

knew how important they were to a thriving university."

In 2003, the university honored Nini Horn's role at CSULB and in the community when the North Campus Library was renamed the Steve and Nini Horn Center by the Trustees of the California State University.

The Horn Center is located near the University Art Museum on the north side of campus.

"You can never underestimate the impact she has had at CSULB," Alexander said. "Our college and students are in a better place because of her impact."

When her husband, Steve Horn, became president of CSULB in 1970, Nini became a vital member of education and the arts.

She was integral in cultivating many major gifts. These include the Isabel Patterson Child Development Center, the International House, the Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden, the Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater and the president's home.

She was also very active with the Fine Arts Affiliates and the International Community Council.

Her passion stretched beyond education and the arts and into the community.

In 1979, as a chair of the Long Beach Unified School District's 100-member committee, Nini Horn proposed desegregation guidelines and the magnet school plan.

For the next 10 years, she served on the LBUSD Personnel Commission.

"She was very involved in the community," Horn Jr. said. "She was a wonderful person who people instantly liked."

Her thoughtfulness, energy, integrity, good humor and organizational ability charmed and galvanized hundreds of friends in each chapter of her life.

She was president of Long Beach's Public Corporation for the Arts and was the leader in the effort that persuaded the city council to provide funds through the arts council for the Long Beach arts organizations in 1984.

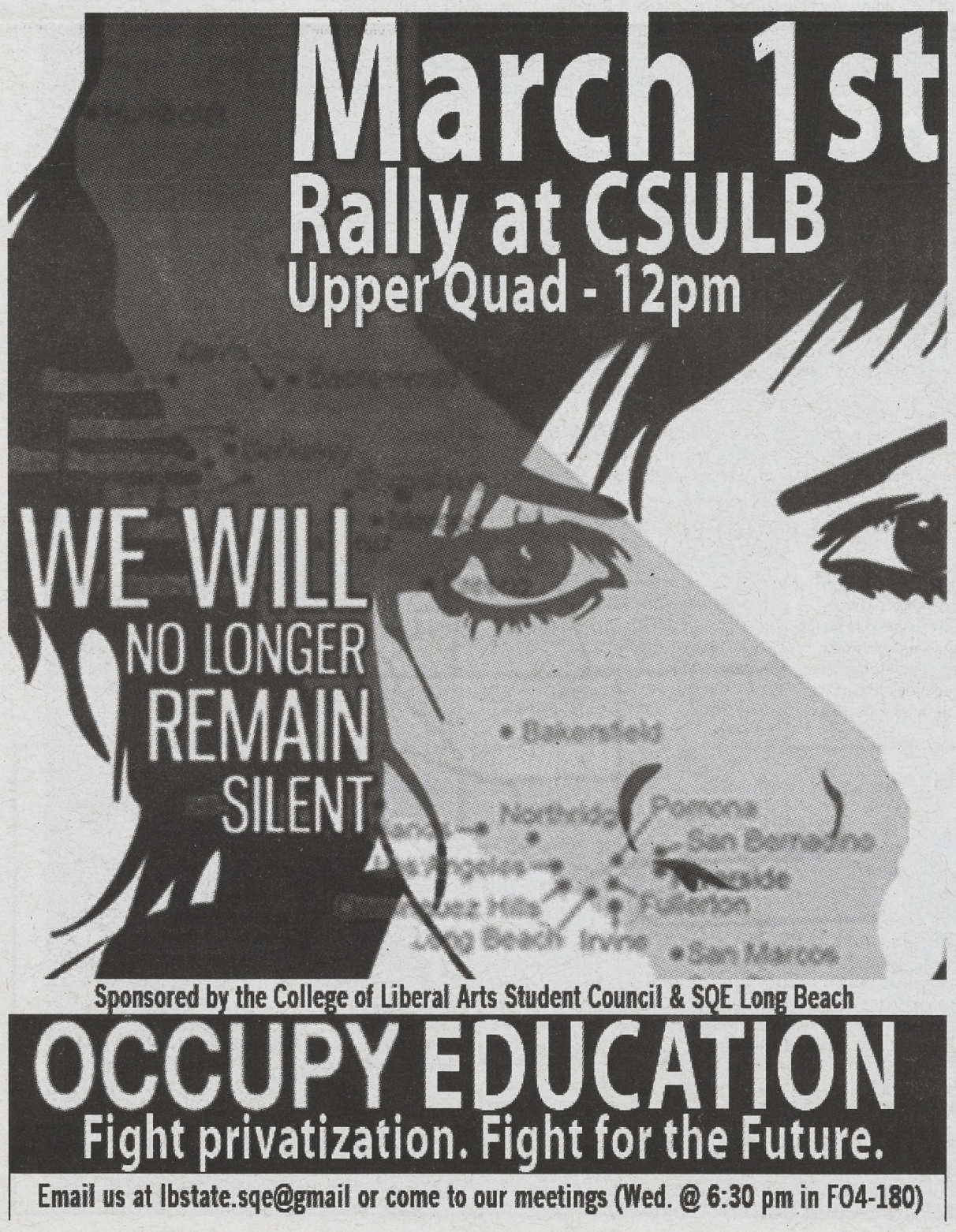
She also served on boards of the California Community Foundation, the Greater Long Beach Community Foundation, Family Service of Long Beach and the Todd Cancer Institute at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center.

Aside from having her hand in community affairs, her role in her husband's political career was also critical.

Her friends represented most of the volunteers that powered an all-volunteer campaign that won five elections.

She is survived by her son Steve Horn Jr. of Long Beach, daughter Marcia Horn of Phoenix and grandson Jonathan Horn, also of Phoenix.

The family suggests that, in lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in Nini Horn's honor to any of the three organizations she supported strongly, including CSULB College of the Arts, The Long Beach Community Foundation and the Todd Cancer Institute.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DEAR CSULB STUDENTS:

A budget update from President Alexander has informed us that CSULB could face a sudden trigger reduction of $15.6 million dollars midway through the 2012-13 fiscal year. This would happen if Governor Brown's tax measure is not approved on the November ballot. Our total reduction for next year would then be about $26 mil.

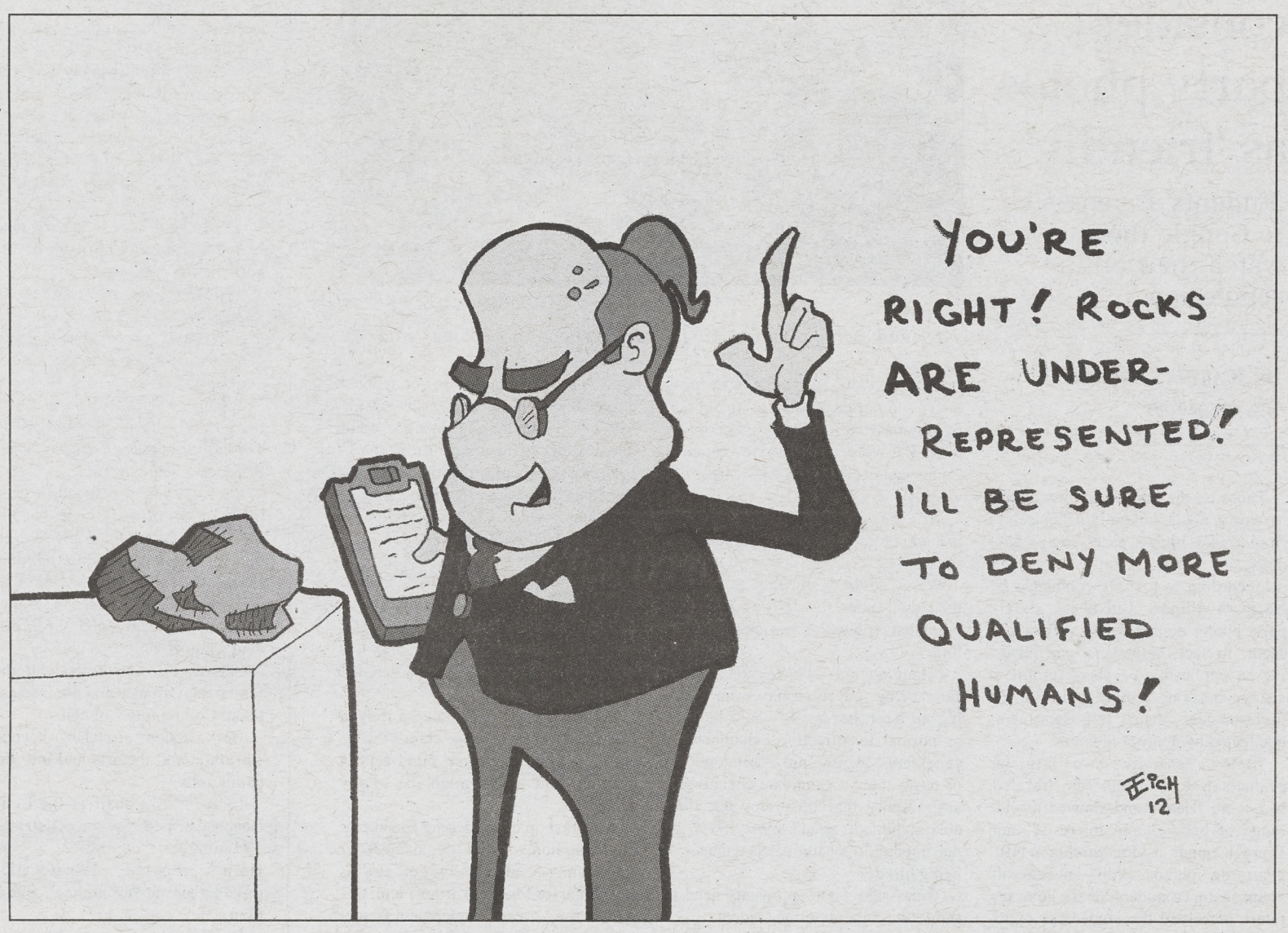
THAT IS REALLY A LOT OF MONEY. How would a cut of that magnitude impact you as a student at CSULB? A $26 mil reduction would erase the entire College of Liberal Arts budget; or it would erase the budgets for both the College of Engineering AND the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. A cut of that magnitude would cancel 3,000 courses, reducing by half all courses we usually offer in one semester.

This is very serious. Students have organized a budget teach-in and rally "OCCUPY EDUCATION" on March 1 at 12 noon on the campus QUAD. Learn what you can do to ensure this $26 mil cut does not happen to CSULB.

Sincerely,

Prof. Teri Yamada,
President of the California Faculty Association at CSULB (representing faculty, librarians, coaches, and counselors along with all concerned colleagues at CSULB who want to ensure this does not happen to our great campus and students)

Schools should not consider race in admissions



OUR VIEW

After nearly a decade, affirmative action is heading back to the Supreme Court. On Tuesday February 21, the Supreme Court agreed to hear a case regarding affirmative action in college admissions later this year. In 2003, the Supreme Court ruled in the Grutter v. Bollinger case that universities could consider race in the admissions process.

The new case, Fisher v. Texas, is expected to undergo tougher scrutiny by the current Supreme Court and will definitely affect the way universities admit students. Having a diverse student background is something that schools should pride themselves on; CSULB itself is proud of its diverse student body. But, when it comes to admitting students into universities, the most important factor should be whether or not students meet the school's qualifications.

In the Grutter v. Bollinger case, the court ruled that public universities could consider race in admissions processes because racial diversity in higher education was a compelling government interest. The court also stated that government interest is crucial when a public university uses race as a deciding factor in its admissions process.

In 2008, a student from Texas, Abigail Fisher, failed to gain admission to the University of Texas at Austin and filed a lawsuit, Fisher v. Texas, challenging the Supreme Court's decision in Grutter v. Bollinger.

Fisher challenged UT's "holistic" admissions process that used race as a factor to admit students who may not meet the academic qualifications needed to gain admission to public universities in Texas.

Fisher also argued that universities in Texas should not consider race in admissions to improve racial diversity, when methods such as the Top 10 Percent Law exist. The law guarantees that the top 10 percent of seniors from each Texas high school can gain admission to public universities in Texas. The law was especially beneficial to schools with high Latino and black student populations as the top 10 percent of seniors were more likely to fall into those ethnic groups.

A trial judge in Austin and the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals backed UT's admissions guidelines. The Grutter v. Bollinger case basically stated that promoting and improving ethnic diversity was an important enough issue to allow the consideration of race in the admissions process.

Even the Obama administration is in support of the law and filed a brief on behalf of the university when the case was at the Fifth Circuit.

"The university's effort to promote diversity is a paramount government objective," the brief stated. "The question is not whether an individual belongs to a racial group, but rather how an individual's membership in any group may provide deeper understanding of the person's record and experiences, as well as the contribution she can make to the school."

Greater diversity in college campuses is indeed important and maintaining a balanced student population is something that should be praised, but where do we draw the line between promoting diversity for diversity's sake and accepting truly qualified students?

If universities are rejecting students who meet the academic qualifications in favor of a minority student who may not meet the qualifications, than affirmative action may be doing more harm than good.

A diverse student body makes a campus stand out, but a university should not reject qualified students just to maintain diversity.

Bright colors and vintage clothes are the best spring trends

NAYELI CARILLO

With spring right around the corner, it's time to bring your flip-flops out and put your pea coats away. This spring there is something out there for everyone. The biggest trends this year are color blocking, athletic clothing, and peplum.

The first trend that is not leaving this spring is color blocking. If you don't know what that means, the trick is to stay simple. Take your standard color wheel and pick two colors that are either directly across from the color wheel, complimentary or make a small T when picking them. Add a third color by pairing them with nudes, blacks or whites.

The color of the season is tangerine and it took full force on the runway with designers Vivienne Tam, Jill Stuart and even Project Runway's Christian Siriano. The color is best used with a hint of pink or even black. If you are afraid of the bright hue any shade of orange will do.

If you are not as bold, you might want to try the minimalist pastels trend. The colors were worn on the runway with dressed up business casual looks. Try wearing shorts, blazers and button-up blouses for a fun way to mix it up for a job interview. Take some clues from Carolina Herrera and Calvin Klein who did it right this season if you still want some ideas for how to wear pastels.

If you are trying to feel more inspired to go the gym to get that summer body then don't worry because athletic clothing is in. This spring saw a lot of windbreaker jackets, spandex-like pants, and anoraks in playful and feminine ways. Jazz up your gym gear by adding some flair from designers like Rag and Bone, Helmut Lang and Marc Jacobs.

Designers set their sights on Africa this year for a fun Safari trend as opposed to a more traditional jungle theme. Michael Kors is leading the pack with cheetah prints, khakis, brown belts and gorgeous accessories inspired by the landscape. If you are feeling more risqué and want to play with more color trends that remind you of this region, look to the masters of color Proenza Schouler.

As far as decades go, we are looking at two trends coming back this year. The 20s and peplum, which is reminiscent of the 40s and 50s, are both making comebacks. For both trends body shapes are something you might want to consider. Peplums are hard to wear but extremely flirty and can give you so much Hollywood glamour.

Marc Jacobs once again proved that bold can be wearable if done right when he graced the catwalk with Gatsby-inspired dresses influenced by the 20s. They were seen with sequins and stones or simpler styles for the less coquette Daisies out there. The Olsen twins took the hint and incorporated this trend into their signature collection The Row, as did Tory Burch and Oscar de la Renta.

So remember, spring is the perfect time to embrace color, prints and flirtier, feminine trends. Put your grays, blacks, and browns away unless you are pairing them with these trends.

Nayeli Carillo is a senior journalism major and a contributing writer for the Daily 49er.

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Rick Santorum is the worst republican presidential candidate

GERRY WACHOVSKY

How many warning signs will it take to prove to the country that Rick Santorum is clearly the worst choice of a candidate for president in recent memory? The sweater vest-wearing Holy Roller would not only be bad news should he win the Republican nomination, but he would set the country back years, if not decades.

Never has there been a candidate who seems to hate sex, and anything related to it, more than Santorum. If that's not reason enough to send this joker back to the hole he crawled out of, there are also a plethora of other facts that are rather unsettling about Ricky.

Allow me to start with the comments that Santorum's wife, Karen, made on Glenn Beck's web show last Thursday, as reported in the Washington Times. According to Karen, Santorum's recent rise in the polls is due to the "will of God."

"I personally think this is God's will," Karen Santorum said. "I think He has us on a path, and I do think there's a lot more happening than what we're seeing."

Well, allow me to tell Karen what I personally think: you and Rick are absolutely insane. If this isn't a warning sign that there is a crazy person running for president than I don't know what is.

"The want [to be president] is a mission to make the culture a better culture, more pleasing to God," Karen continued. "For us it's all about making the world a better place."

Is it conceivable that this woman has never heard about the separation of church and state? Is it really a good idea to do interviews preaching that some higher power has sent Rick on a "mission" to lead the country on a trip that would set it back for years?

But alas, Santorum's crazy train rolls on.

Rick has made his thoughts clear on issues like gay marriage and women's reproductive rights: he's against both. He's also not fond of stem-cell research, cloning, and according to an article in USA Today from 2003, he would support laws prohibiting polygamy, adultery, and sodomy. In fact, he'd support anything which promotes "a healthy, stable, traditional family".

What world is this man living in? Clearly he resides in a Puritanical alternate universe where there is no debauchery and every man, woman, and child follows the "word of god" to a tee. I'm sorry Rick, but that ain't our world. People in the United States are free to do as they please, and the fact that Santorum would work to take away our freedoms just rubs me the wrong way.

Santorum also believes that there is "no such thing" as global warming and announced on Glenn Beck's show that he would have a policy of "drill everywhere" – after all, according to Rick, there is "enough oil, coal, and natural gas to last for centuries." He has also referred to the predominant theory of global warming as "junk science."

I'm sorry, but a guy who believes an imaginary man who lives in the sky sent him on a mission to become president shouldn't be commenting on science at all. In fact, he should be locked up in a rubber room, free to rant and rave about his destiny and faith to all the other crazies who care to listen.

There are so many things that make Ricky unfit for any form of political leadership but this next one is just bizarre.

In 1996, Santorum's wife gave birth to a boy who was born premature and died a few hours later. Rick then took the corpse home and, according to The New York Times Magazine, introduced it to his other children.

The one thing scarier than that? This man is trying to become leader of the free world.

Gerry Wachovsky is a graduate student and columnist for the Daily 49er.

Uninspiring nominees undermine Academy Awards' relevance

ALEXIS REZA

Every year, millions of eyes are glued to their televisions as they watch the Academy Awards. As always, this year's nominations were a mixed bag of films deserving of their nominations, such as The Artist, and more commercial fare that felt safe and uninspiring. Movies like Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close and The Help fall into the latter category.

Every year there are upsets and shockers that send hard core fans into a tizzy where they declare that they'll never watch the show again.

Last year, The King's Speech's Best Picture victory over David Fincher's The Social Network sent me into a similar funk where I watched The Social Network over and over, cursing Tom Hooper's win.

And yet, despite my rage and hurt feelings, this year I set my living room television to auto-tune to E! for the red carpet coverage and vowed to finish my homework early so I could spend the day watching the hours-long ceremony.

The Academy Awards telecast draws the second-largest television audience after the Super Bowl and is arguably the biggest event in entertainment.

Those of us who scramble to watch all the nominated films and argue over whether or not the winners deserved their trophies are probably way too invested in a show that really doesn't have any bearing on our lives whatsoever.

Even the awards themselves seem to have lost a bit of their luster over the years. When cloying films such as Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close are nominated for Best Picture when more deserving films such as Drive are left without nominations it leaves a bitter taste in my mouth.

After a few years of seeing movies like The Help and The Blind Side rack up nominations, I'm left wondering whether or not an Oscar even means anything anymore.

The Academy Awards basically only exist to give Hollywood a sponsored, televised night to pat each other on the back and congratulate each other for being rich, famous and talented.

Regardless of whether or not certain movies deserve their nominations or wins, the Academy Awards are still a hugely popular event and for weeks leading up to it, the media coverage is constant.

Watching the nominated films and trying to predict all the winners is fun, but this year's crop of nominees leaves a lot to be desired.

After years of nominating and awarding lackluster movies, maybe they aren't so important after all.

Alexis Reza is a senior journalism major and opinions editor for the Daily 49er.

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'Wanderlust' too comedic for serious moments

Although the film is funny, its attempts at more serious moments are not successful.

By Matt Grippi
Staff Writer

Wanderlust

Did we dig it?

3 out of 5 shovels

Starring: Paul Rudd, Jennifer Aniston
Rated: R

WANDERLUST-MOVIE.COM

Paul Rudd and Jennifer Aniston star in the comedy "Wanderlust," as a couple who finds themselves in a hippie-like community.

David Wain's "Wanderlust" is a fever dream of a movie, which has some insanely funny laugh-out-loud moments, but has trouble finding its footing when it attempts to be taken seriously.

This is director David Wain's fourth feature film. He is probably most well-known for directing the cult comedy, "Wet Hot American Summer," and his more mainstream effort from 2008, "Role Models." He is also a member of the '90s MTV sketch comedy troupe "The State," and the short-lived Comedy Central show "Stella."

Wain's background in sketch comedy is important to know when watching "Wanderlust" because the film is basically an excuse to get the talented comedic cast into a series of ridiculous scenes together.

The basic plot involves a couple, George (Paul Rudd) and Linda (Jennifer Aniston), who decide to move into a ridiculously expensive studio apartment in New York City after Linda finishes her documentary film on penguins with testicular cancer. George has an office job, which he hates, and is laid-off when the head of the company is arrested for fraud.

When HBO rejects Linda's movie and leaves both of them jobless, they are forced to move out of New York and go live with George's brother Rick (Ken Marino), who gives George a job at his port-a-potty factory. This proves to be too awful for George and Linda to handle, so they drop everything and move into an almost cult-like hippie commune called Elysium, run by guru Seth (Justin Theroux). They are greeted by Wayne (Joe Lo Truglio), a nudist author, whose constant nudity and giant prosthetic penis becomes a running joke in the film.

What follows is a series of ridiculous events as Linda fully accepts the Elysium lifestyle while George struggles to cope. The characters at the commune are sickeningly free-spirited, refusing to accept the real world and frequently taking hallucinogenic drugs, which lead to some of the funniest scenes in the movie. The drug-trip scenes are when Wain really gets to let his weirdness out, and it makes the rest of the film seem like he's holding back a bit.

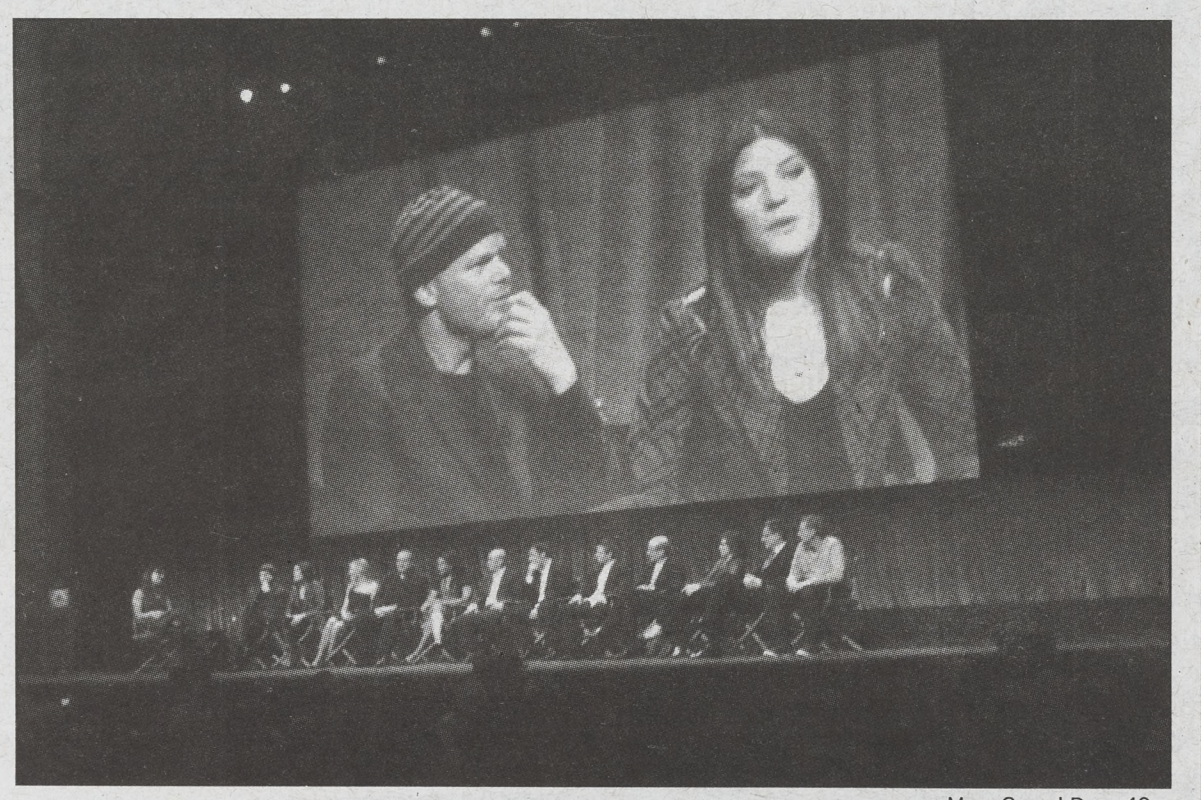
The problems with the film come in the third act when Linda refuses to leave Elysium when George says he's had enough. The film had not taken itself seriously enough up to that point for it to make sense that Linda would be so accepting of this lifestyle. Besides the two protagonists, there are almost no other characters who seem like they are operating in the real world, so when George and Linda have to make real-life decisions, it's hard to care. The choice between the overly-cynical claustrophobic New York lifestyle and the free-love drug-addled hippie life doesn't seem realistic enough to have real meaning.

Fortunately, there are enough laughs along the way for it to be forgivable. The cast is extremely talented, and there is a sense of fun and absurdity that you don't usually get in a mainstream comedy these days. If this film is successful, it could lead to another David Wain film where he is allowed to be as strange as his previous work has been, which is something worth supporting.

Paleyfest to screen, host TV favorites

The annual event will include screenings and panels from some of today's most popular shows.

By Matt Grippi
Staff Writer



Matt Grippi | Daily 49er

(from left) Michael C. Hall and Jennifer Carpenter talk at a panel of "Dexter" at the 2010 Paleyfest.

Comic Con has always been the go-to convention for geek culture, but now television fanatics in the Los Angeles-area finally have something specific to their interests. The Paley Center for Media's annual Paleyfest is coming up, and it is a TV fan's dream.

Every year, the Paley Center for Media hosts a series of screenings and panels for some of television's most popular shows. The cast, writing team and creators of the shows play clips, answer questions and sometimes screen upcoming episodes for the fans.

This year, the list of shows includes many of the most popular comedies and dramas on television. Highlights include "Community," "American Horror Story," "The Office," "Modern Family," "Sons of Anarchy" and "Mad Men."

The "Mad Men" and "Community" panels will be particularly exciting because both shows are returning from long hiatuses for different reasons.

"Community" on NBC has a large cult fanbase but was struggling in the ratings. It was pulled indefinitely from the schedule mid-season, but was just announced to be returning this March. It should be interesting to hear what the cast and crew think about this recent news, and their thoughts on the future of the show. It is also guaranteed to be hilarious to watch Joel Mchale, Donald Glover, Chevy Chase and the rest of the cast joke with each other onstage.

The "Mad Men" panel should be equally exciting. Due to budgetary issues and salary disputes, the hugely-popular AMC drama was held back for almost a year. Fans have been waiting to find out what happened to their favorite characters for an excruciatingly long time, so this panel is bound to be full of insider info.

The other great thing about Paleyfest is that they allow the audience to ask questions after each panel. Big fans will have the opportunity to ask the writers what certain episodes meant, or ask the actors which episode is their favorite. There are very few times when fans will have an opportunity like this, especially if the show isn't going to be visiting Comic Con or any other conventions.

Paleyfest begins on March 2nd at the Saban theater in Beverly Hills with the panel for the creepy FX drama "American Horror Story." It then continues with a new panel and show every night until ending with "Modern Family" on March 14. Individual tickets range in price from around $25 to $75, depending on seating.

For more information, visit **paleycenter.org/paleyfest2012-lineup.**

Campus Calendar

Feb. 27

Student art galleries
The **art department** presents **photography group exhibits, sculpture, ceramic, drawing and painting** from **noon to 5 p.m.** The student art galleries are located between the **FA2 and FA3 buildings.** Admission is **free.**

Composers' Guild
The **Bob Cole Conservatory of Music** presents **Composers' Guild, "One Minute Wonders"** with **Robin Cox Ensemble** at **8 p.m.** at **Daniel Gerald Recital Hall.** Admission is **free.**

'Discover Your Career Interests'
The **Career Development Center** presents **"Discover Your Career Interests"** at **noon.** The Career Development Center is located at **Brotman Hall, room 250.**

Steampunk mixed media art show
Warehouse 1333 presents a **steampunk mixed media art show** from **11 a.m. to 7 p.m.** Warehouse 1333 is located at **1333 Redondo Ave.** Admission is **free.**

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10 Announcements

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'Niners clinch Big West title outright

Senior Casper Ware led LBSU with 17 points in a 64-40 victory over UC Riverside.

By Daniel Van Hoosier
Assistant Sports Editor

With sole ownership of its second consecutive Big West Conference regular season championship on the line, the Long Beach State men's basketball team responded with one of its most complete efforts of the season.

The game did not resemble a rematch between two teams who needed overtime to settle the contest just a month ago, as the 49ers (21-7, 14-0 Big West) dominated visiting UC Riverside (13-16, 6-9) from start to finish Saturday evening en route to a conference-clinching 64-40 victory.

The 40-point output by the Highlanders is the lowest allowed by LBSU in the Dan Monson coaching era — Monson is now in his fifth season with the 49ers. The 'Niners outshout Riverside 43.1 to 28.8 for the game.

The 'Niners set the tone early, using advantages in every facet of the game to outscore the Highlanders 41-18 in the first half.

LBSU continued its dominance after the break, never allowing the Highlanders to pull any closer than 21.

Monson said the team must continue to play at a high-level to avoid another letdown in the Big West Tournament.

"The most pleasing thing for me was our approach and focus today," he said. "That is the first time I have seen these guys in four years with an opponent they thought they were better than, approach them like a Santa Barbara or a Kansas. I told them that is the last step they have to being a great team."

"That is the first time I have seen these guys in four years with an opponent they thought they were better than, approach them like a Santa Barbara or a Kansas. I told them that is the last step they have to being a great team."

-Dan Monson

LBSU smothered the Highlanders defensively and did not surrender double-digit scoring to a single member of their squad.

Monson added: "I really thought they had a great edge in this game and prepared well. They were very focused and I thought Casper did a great job of getting into Phil Martin early and disrupting his flow, when he did get some looks he was not comfortable."

Senior guard Casper Ware compiled a game-high 17 points to go along with four assists, two rebounds and three steals.

Ware said the team must have a different perspective about closing out the regular season strong, even with the conference title in-hand.

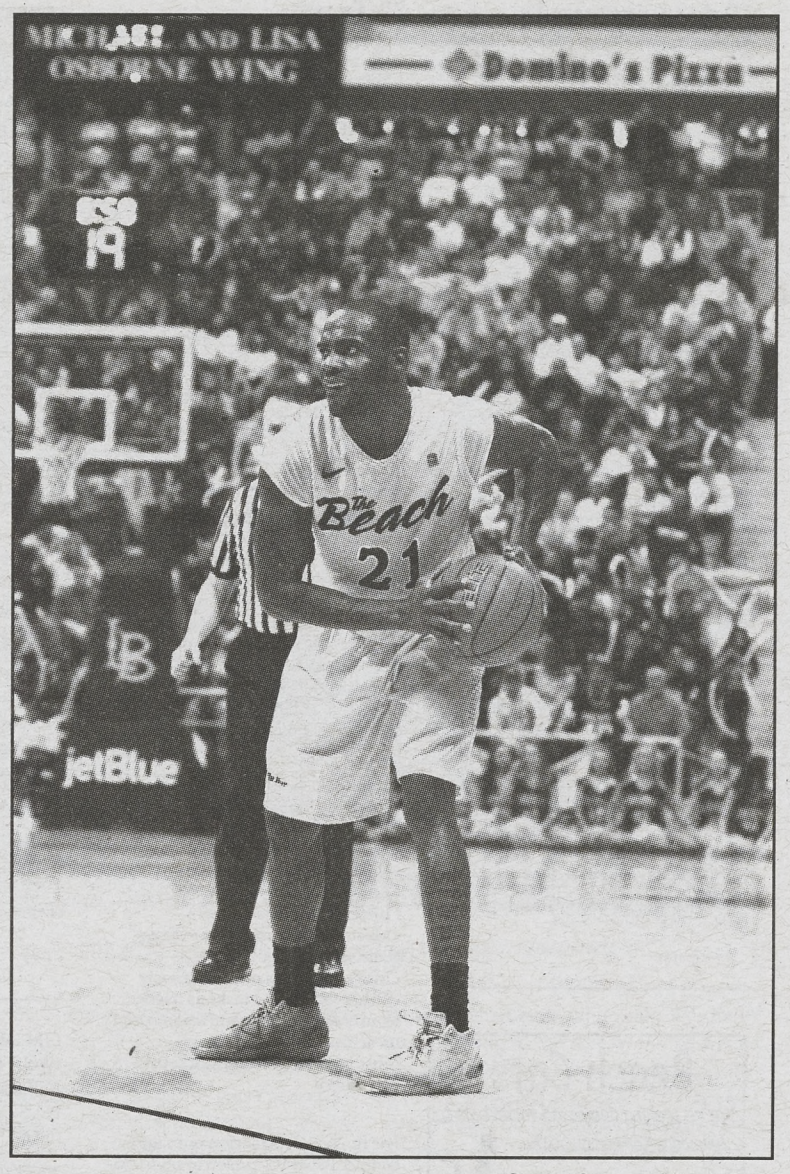
"Last year we had not been in that position before, to lock the conference championship up that early," he said. "We were a little laid back. We have to have a whole different attitude and we showed that today."

Senior guard Larry Anderson added 11 points, 3 rebounds, one assist and a steal. The steal was the 201st of Anderson's career, making him the all-time leader in steals at LBSU.

"We just came out really hungry and delivered a punch right off the bat," Anderson said. "I think this is probably one of our most complete games since we have been here to be honest. Coach kept saying, 'just drill them.' They had their runs but overall I think we played really good."

Senior forward T.J. Robinson compiled his 52nd career double-double with 10 points, a game-high 16 rebounds. Eugene Phelps added 11 points and three rebounds.

The Beach will return to the floor Wednesday for senior night when it hosts UC Irvine in the final home game of the season at 7 p.m.



Steven Carcano | Daily 49er

Senior guard Larry Anderson became the all-time leader in steals at Long Beach State in the 49ers 64-40 victory over UC Riverside.

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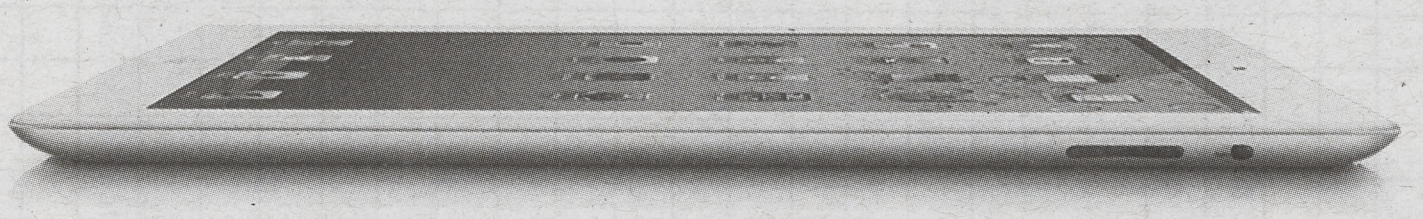

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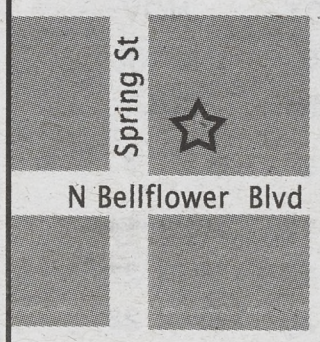

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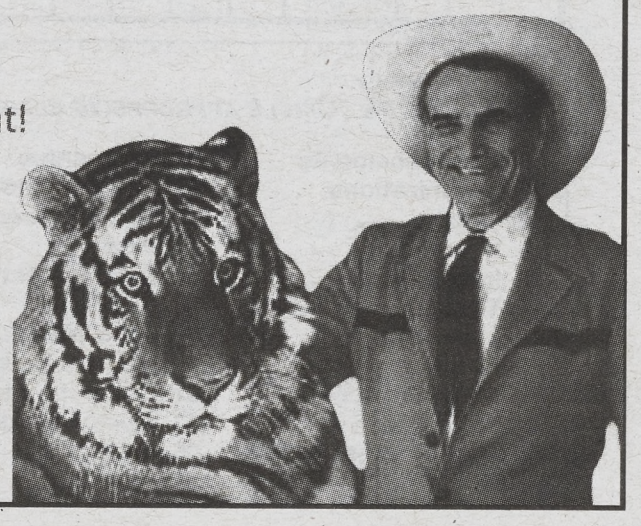
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